

**REMARKS**

**1. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-10, and 12-23 are currently pending.

Claims 9-10 and 12-23 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected inventions.<sup>1</sup>

Claims 1-3 and 6 are currently canceled, notwithstanding Applicant's belief that the canceled claims should have been allowable, without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments, and without waiving the right to prosecute the unamended (or similar) claims in another application, but rather for the purpose of furthering Applicant's business goals and expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG).<sup>2</sup>

**2. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 6**

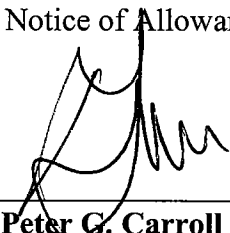
The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for alleged lack of enablement<sup>3</sup> and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Pallaoro et al.<sup>4</sup> These rejections are moot in view of cancellation of these claims.

**3. CLAIM 34 IS ALLOWED**

The Examiner stated that Claim 34 is allowed.<sup>5</sup> Since this allowed claim is the only pending claim, Applicants look forward to receiving a Notice of Allowance in due course.

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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<sup>1</sup> Office Action, page 2, item 1.  
<sup>2</sup> 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000).  
<sup>3</sup> Office Action, page 3, item 5.  
<sup>4</sup> Office Action, page 5, item 7.  
<sup>5</sup> Office Action, page 1, item 5, and page 6, item 8.